

**BNSF**

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**VIA UPS OVERNIGHT MAIL**

January 10, 2005

Victoria Rutson  
Chief, Section of Environmental Analysis  
Surface Transportation Board  
1925 K Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Re: Surface Transportation Board Docket No. AB-6 (Sub-No. 401X); The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company ("BNSF") Abandonment in Des Moines, Polk County, Iowa

Dear Ms. Rutson:

On June 28, 2004, BNSF filed a Notice of Exemption seeking authority to abandon or discontinue service of 1.88 miles of railroad line between railroad milepost 67.38 and railroad milepost 1.45 near Des Moines, in Polk County, Iowa. The line traverses United States Postal Service Zip Code 50309. The abandonment consummation date is July 16, 2005.

By decision dated August 16, 2004, the Board imposed three environmental conditions. The third condition required BNSF to retain its interest in and take no steps to alter the historic integrity of all sites and structures on the right-of-way that are 50 years old or older until completion of the Section 106 process of the National Historic Preservation Act, 16 U.S.C. 470f. By letter dated December 20, 2004, the Section of Environmental Analysis ("SEA") informed BNSF that the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation ("ACHP") has raised concerns with SEA regarding portions of rail line in this docket being transferred prior to the time that BNSF received abandonment authority from the Board. Within that same letter, SEA requested that BNSF provide certain information by January 10, 2005 so that SEA can respond effectively to ACHP.

BNSF requests an extension of two weeks (until January 24, 2005) so that BNSF can complete verification of information regarding line sales to the City of Des Moines and construction projects involving the Science Center of Iowa.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (202) 347-8667.

Sincerely,

Sidney L. Strickland, Jr.

SLS/js

cc: James Gallegos  
Richard Batie  
Randy Acosta  
John Sims